## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 227086 ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CPR-02 /016 R

DRAFTED BY L/M:HFSHAMWELL APPROVED BY L/M:KEMALMBORG ARA/CEN - MR. WELTER S/CPR - MR. GOOKIN (INFO)

-----005316 072154Z /66

P 072138Z SEP 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, APER, NU

SUBJECT: LEASE DISPUTE INVOLVING EMBASSY STAFF MEMBER

- -

REF: MANAGUA 4093

- 1. REFTEL REQUESTED AUTHORIZATION TO CLAIM IMMUNITY ON BEHALF OF EMBASSY EMPLOYEE INVOLVED IN LEASE DISPUTE WITH LANDLORD. IMMUNITY WOULD BE BASED ON ARTICLE 37 OF VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS SINCE EMPLOYEE IS MEMBER OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL STAFF. THAT ARTICLE AFFORDS PERSONAL IMMUNITY IN CIVIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CASES ONLY FOR ACTIONS COMMITTED IN "COURSE OF (OFFICIAL) DUTIES."
- 2. DEPT. FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO SUPPORT CLAIM THAT ENTERING INTO PRIVATE LEASE IS PART OF OFFICIAL DUTIES, ALTHOUGH ADMITTEDLY IT IS NECESSARY TO HAVE HOUSING AS AN ADJUNCT TO PERFORMANCE OF EMBASSY FUNCTIONS AND THAT HOUSING IS PAID FOR OUT OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS. MORE DEFENSIBLE POSITION CAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE TAKEN IN CASE OF DIPLOMATS WHO ENJOY IMMUNITY UNDER ARTICLE 31(I)(A) RESPECTING "REAL ACTIONS RELATING TO PRIVATE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY" IF THEY HOLD IT "ON BEHALF OF THE SENDING STATE FOR PURPOSES OF THE MISSION.

3. NOTWITHSTANDING DEPT'S RELUCTANCE RESPECTING DEFENSIBILITY OF LEGAL BASIS FOR IMMUNITY, DEPT. WILL,

UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, AUTHORIZE EMBASSY THROUGH ITS ATTORNEY, TO PRESENT CASE FOR IMMUNITY ON GROUND THAT STAFF MEMBER WAS CARRYING OUT "OFFICIAL" INSTRUCTIONS IN SECURING PRIVATE LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS.

4. RESPECTING RECIPROCITY, EMBASSY IS FREE TO CITE FACT THAT AT PRESENT TIME, PENDING REPEAL (IMMINENT) OF DOMESTIC STATUTE GRANTING FULL IMMUNITY FROM LEGAL PROCESS TO ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSION PERSONNEL, ALIEN ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL STAFF MEMBERS OF NICARAGUAN EMBASSY WOULD ENJOY IMMUNITY UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: DISPUTES, DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES, LEASES

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